MRS. HAROLD STAGG.

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CHAPTER XIX.

Twenty-four hours later Emma and her husband were in the train on the way to Chicago. Harold, though still by no means enlightened to his own satisfaction as to the exact meaning of the dialogue which had taken place in his niece's parlor, was, nevertheless, very well pleased at her determination to accept the presidency. Nevertheless, he had not been able to explain to himself how he or Emma had been of assistance to Eleanor in making up her mind or why it had been necessary for them to visit her. There was, obviously, some mystery which Emma appeared to understand, the solution of which was for some reason withheld from him. Moreover, his wife, contrary to expectation, had seemed eager to avoid further discussion of the matter when they were alone together; so much so that she had neglected to call his attention to the fact that she had prophesied that there was a man at the bottom of it. The only further reference made to it by Eleanor had been a promise made by her on the way to the station, whither she accompanied them, to write full particulars of the inauguration ceremonies, the date for which would be fixed as soon as her letter of acceptance of the office had been sent to the trustees.

Five minutes after the train was under way, however, Emma, who had been sitting lost in contemplation, sighed, and with a sympathizing shake of the head, said:

"Poor child! I am sorry for her."

As she spoke she cast an interrogative glance at Harold, who answered, somewhat doggedly, "What is the matter now, Cherub?"

"Nothing is the matter; but when a girl is in love with a man it is always hard to give him up. For once in her life Eleanor, however, seems to have acted with discretion."

"Do you mean that she was in love with that man she mentioned, Prof. Struthers?"

"Why, certainly, dear."

"Why, didn't she say so, then?"

"She did, as plainly as it was possible for her to do, considering that she was not going to marry him."

"I suppose that she decided not to accept him because she did not love him," Harold said. "To tell the truth, though, I was pretty well in the dark all through."

"I saw that you were, dear, and I was rather thankful, for a word of the wrong sort from your lips might have spoiled everything?"

"How do you mean?"

"If you had given her any encouragement I am afraid she would have married him."

"I thought you were anxious to have her married."

"So I was—to the right man. But this would never do."

"Why not? This Prof. Struthers is a very decent fellow, and a very able one from all accounts. His invention is already very successful, and he is sure to be rich, and I understand that he has taken out patents for the introduction of electricity as a motive power in moving railroad trains. He is a rising man, I should say, and if Eleanor is in love with him, I think she had better have married him, even if she were obliged to give up her presidency in order to do so."

"It is a little late now," said Emma, majestically. "You should have said so at the time."

"But I tell you I had no idea she was in love with him."

"That was not my fault."

"Pshaw! It's an outrage, Cherub. You oughtn't to have let her do it."

Emma coughed uneasily.

"I don't mean that she was desperately in love with him. Of course if she had been she would have accepted him very likely, without asking us anything about it. What I mean is that she liked him just well enough, so that, others things being equal, she would have married him. But they weren't equal, and she knew it. He wanted her to give up her position."

"Of course he did. Any man would; and if he had given up his own in order to marry her he would have been a fool. Well, as I said at the time, women are beyond me. Apparently, I am in the position of having advised her to accept the presidency at the cost of her affections."

Emma pursed her lips disdainfully.

"As I said before, if she were to marry him, and they were to live out here, it might not have been such a very bad idea if Eleanor had been seriously bent on it; but if she had come to live in New York, he would have been a white elephant on our hands. He knows nobody; in fact, they neither of them know anybody now. What would they have done?"

"Died from sheer lack of companionship in a city of over a million inhabitants. Cherub, you are superb!"

"Laugh if you like, Harold. I am right. She is very much better off as she is. People have got used to thinking of her as a blue stocking and it will be rather a feather in her cap to be known as president of a college, even if she is described in the newspapers as 'Lady President.' But to marry a man who is wrapped up in batteries, and whom no one ever heard of before he invented this machine, or whatever it is, would be neither one thing or another. Unless I were to take them in hand and push them hard, they would have no chance of getting on; and I doubt very much if everything I could do would be sufficient, though it is possible that the great interest which there is in electricity at the moment might save them from falling flat. But I am thankful that I have not got to try."

CHAPTER XX.

Harold was silent for some moments.

"I am not sure, Cherub," he said, "that I shall not write Eleanor a letter, telling her that I did not understand the real facts."

"What facts will you tell her you did not understand?"

"That she loves that man, of course."

"She will scarcely thank you for that, my dear. Girls do not care to have it said to them that they are in love with men whom they have refused."

"But you said she admitted it."

"What I said was that any one could have told she was in love with him. She never said so, in words, of course."

Harold squirmed in his chair disgustedly, and spreading out with a jerk the newspaper which he had just bought, he said:

"If people expect others to give them good advice, they should speak out plainly, instead of beating about the bush. I believe in calling a spade a spade."

Thereupon he relapsed into dignified silence behind the expanse of newspaper, which Emma did not see fit to interrupt until the train stopped for refreshments, an hour or so later.

The Staggs, after visiting Chicago, went to several other cities, so that it was over a fortnight from the date of their departure from Clavering before they reached home. As Emma ran her eye over the packet of letters awaiting them on the hall table, she exclaimed:

"Here's one from Eleanor! I suppose the inauguration must have taken place."

Harold, who was removing his overcoat, heard her gasp a moment after, and looking up, perceived that her eyes were greedily devouring the contents of an open letter with an expression of horror.

"What is it?" he asked.

"All I can say is she is a perfect fool!"

"Who is?"

"Your precious niece, Eleanor Baldwin."

"What has she done now?" he said, as he approached his wife and looked over her shoulder. "I say, who authorized you to open my letter?"

"Don't be foolish, Harold. Take your old letter. I might have known I couldn't trust her. Why didn't I stay until the ceremony was over?"

"The ceremony? Why, is Eleanor married?" he asked, as he received the letter from her hand.

"The inauguration ceremony, goose."

Harold went into the library, and seating himself near the window to catch the waning afternoon light, read as follows:

"Dear Uncle Harold:—You will think me a regular Reuben, I dare say. 'Unstable as water thou shalt not excel.' Well, I have no wish to excel after this in anything but the homely duties that belong to a purely domestic life. I have told him that I would marry him, Uncle Harold. Prof. Struthers I mean. I thought when you were here, that I was settled in my mind that it was best to give him up; but after you and Aunt Emma were gone I felt so miserable that I went up to my room and had a good cry, and then I knew that I had been trying to deceive myself. There is no use in disguising it, dear Uncle Harold. I love William Struthers and he loves me; and I have written to tell him that I will marry him as soon as he wishes. One of us must give up, and I cannot let him, can I?"

At this point in the letter Harold paused and gave vent to an explosive: "Hooray! Of course she can't let him!" Whereupon he glanced triumphantly at Emma, who, seated, and rocking herself nervously in a little gilt rocking chair, was watching him read. The letter continued:

"I could not bear to have him give up the position which he holds in order to gratify my ambition, so the only way is for me to give up everything for his sake. I did not believe that I could ever do it for any man, but love is a wonderful persuader, dear Uncle Harold.

"I do hope that you and dear Aunt Emma will not feel very badly. I am sure that you will love my husband when you know him, and I am confident that, when you think the matter over, you will agree that, great as was the honor I am renouncing here, true love ought not to be gainsaid for any honor in the world."

Again Harold paused and ejaculated:

"Hooray! That girl is a trump!"

"Have you finished?" Emma asked, icily.

"Not quite, Cherub. Listen to the last page."

"I have written to the trustees to tell them why I have decided to decline the presidency of the college; and it seems best to me—to William also—that the wedding should take place as soon as possible. I have decided, too, that I should like to be married here, from the college where the last five years of my life have been passed. In asking your permission for this I am not unmindful that you will be sure to wish to have me married from your own house; and such would have been my wish, too, except that by being married here I can give pleasure to a large number of the students who are dear to me, and who could not possibly come to New York. Moreover, if I were married from your house a simple wedding would be almost out of the question, and neither William nor I would like a fashionable ceremony. But if you would prefer it otherwise, we shall give up our own preferences. And now, dear Uncle Harold, let me thank you from the bottom of my heart, and thank Aunt Emma, too, for all the love and kindness you have lavished on me—love and kindness greater than which you could not have shown to any child. Indeed, I feel myself to be your child, and it is with the assurance that you feel similarly toward me that I sign myself

Your loving

ELEANOR."

Harold folded up the letter with a beaming expression, but tears in his voice restrained him from speaking for a few moments; then he said, haplily:

"What do you think of that?"

"I am not trying to think of it," Emma replied in a sepulchral tone. "I suppose you will aid and abet her, as usual?"

"To the extent of telegraphing her my congratulations and high approval of everything she has decided upon, if that is aiding and abetting," he answered, seating himself at his desk and searching for a blank.

"She will probably be married before a justice of the peace," groaned Emma.

"Nonsense. What if she is?"

"No proper ceremony; no suitable dress; no invitations; no wedding-cake, I dare say," she murmured, as she rocked herself to and fro.

"You can send her a wedding cake, you know," hazarded Harold.

"Some women would be thankful to be free from the bother of it all," she continued, without regard to his remark; "but there is a right way and a wrong way of doing everything. And," she added, with a dreary sigh, "if there is a wrong way, Eleanor always chooses it. Of course, she can do as she sees fit, and of course, when she comes to New York I shall have to do what I can for her, Harold, because she is your niece; but it is perfectly certain that she and I are fated never to agree on any possible subject—never—never—never!"

"Poor Cherub!" her husband answered, with genuine commiseration, looking up from the telegram he was composing, for he was touched by the melancholy in her voice. "And yet I know," he continued, "that as soon as she comes here, there is nothing you will not do to make her comfortable and happy.

"I suppose I shall be just fool enough," she answered, with mournful emphasis.

For some minutes she rocked herself with folded arms, while Harold wrote and rewrote his telegram.

"Harold," she said, finally.

"Well, dear?"

"I have been thinking what we shall give them for a wedding present. They will probably get very little silver, and I think we had better give them spoons and forks. It may take some time to have them marked properly, so the sooner I order them the better."

"Just the thing, I should say," he replied, as he rose from the table, and he stooped to kiss her, exclaiming with proud fondness: "There is no equal to you, Cherub, in the whole world."

Emma received his embrace with pleased complacency. Then she looked up at him and said, before reading the telegram he had dropped in her lap:

"Do you know, Harold, I sometimes think that if I had not married you, you might have done something very foolish."

The End.

AN ODD ODD FELLOW.

Paid to Learn the Signs and Was Kicked Down Stairs.

"Of all the mean swindles I ever observed," said an Odd Fellow, "the meanest was one down in Texas a couple of years ago. I was living there at that time, and one of my neighbors was a little German saloonkeeper. He wanted to join our order the worst way, but he didn't like putting up the initiation fee.

"One day while the little fellow was dealing out beer in his place a seedy-looking individual entered and asked him if he was an Odd Fellow. The saloon man said he wasn't, and then the seedy-looking chap offered to tell him of all the inner workings of the order for $5.

"'You look like a pretty good fellow,' said the visitor, 'and as long as I don't attend lodge meetings very much any more, I'll give you the grip and all of the secret passwords, so that you can attend the next session held here.'

"The saloonkeeper put up the five, and the seedy-looking man explained a queer grip to him and told him of all sorts of queer motions to make with his hands as soon as he entered the lodge hall.

"Well, on our next meeting night up came the little German. When the doorkeeper stopped him he grabbed his hand and began going through all sorts of antics. Then he put his thumbs to his ears and began wiggling his fingers.

"At this stage in the proceedings the doorkeeper threw him down stairs. When he learned how he had been swindled he swore out a 'John Doe' warrant for the arrest of the man who taught him the 'signs,' but that individual never appeared in town again."

Cause and Effect.

H. H. Vreeland of the Metropolitan Traction company, who, it is said, will go to London to manage the Yerkes underground lines, rose from the lowest of the street railway business, and will occasionally unbend enough to crack a joke with a subordinate.

There is an aged New York conductor whom Mr. Vreeland likes, a Boston man, with a great deal of learning stored in his gray head. About this learning Mr. Vreeland likes to banter the old fellow.

"Why does hanging kill?" he said to this conductor one day.

"Because the inspiration is checked and the circulation arrested, while there is a suffusion of blood to the brain and a consequent caphalic congestion," was the prompt answer.

"I thought hanging killed because the rope was always too short to let the feet touch the ground," said Mr. Vreeland.

Has No Use for Misers.

Clement A. Griscom, the head of the shipping trust, is a generous man himself and consequently holds misers in detestation. A young friend of Mr. Griscom's, very rich but very close, was building a huge house in the suburbs. The cellar had just been dug, when a great snowstorm came and filled it. Of this the young man complained bitterly, but Mr. Griscom, hearing of his complaint, said:

"What is he kicking about? He got the snow for nothing, didn't he?"

Another time a miserly millionaire was dying.

"Dying?" said Mr. Griscom. "What is he dying for? What can he get out of that?"

AS THE WORLD REVOLVES

MRS. JAMES G. BLAINE IS DEAD.

Passes Away at Homestead in Augusta, Me., After a Lingering Illness.

Mrs. James G. Blaine, widow of the distinguished Republican statesman, died at the Blaine homestead at Augusta, Me., July 15. Mrs. Blaine was 76 years old. She came to the old family residence from Washington a short time ago. She was in an enfeebled condition and had been under almost constant medical attention since. During the last week she failed rapidly, her condition being due to a general breakdown of the system.

Mrs. Blaine's maiden name was Harriet Stanwood, and she was the daughter of a leading citizen of the state of Maine. She met her husband while both of them were teachers in a school in Kentucky. They were married at Pittsburg and later came to Augusta, where Mr. Blaine became editor of the Kennebec Journal.

Mrs. James G. Blaine.

She leaves one son, James G. Blaine, and two daughters, Mrs. Harriet Beale and Mrs. Walter Damrosch of New York, who were at her bedside during her last sickness.

SIR ROBERT BALL'S CAREER.

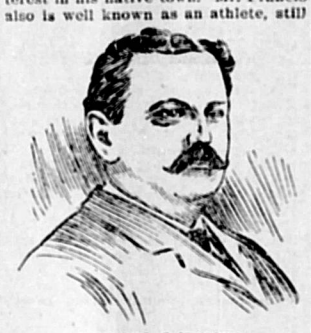
Famous Astronomer Has Always Been a Thorough Irishman.

Ireland's great astronomer, Sir Robert Ball, has just reached his sixty-third year. It is true that he has been astronomical professor at Cambridge for a decade, but he remains a thorough Irishman still. His career as an astronomer dates back to 1865, when, shortly after leaving Trinity college, Dublin, he was placed in charge of the famous private observatory established at Parsonstown, King's county, Ireland. When the possibility of signaling to Mars was under discussion he pointed out that if a flag of the size of Ireland was waved from a pole to match there was just the ghost of a chance that an astronomical Martian might perceive the ghost of a flutter on the earth.

DIPLOMATIC CHANCE LIKED.

Charles S. Francis, Named as Ambassador to Italy, Is Popular.

The announcement that Charles S. Francis, formerly United States minister to Greece, has been recommended as ambassador to Italy is greeted at his home, Troy, N. Y., with much approval. Minister Francis is popular, being owner of the Troy Times, and always having taken a keen interest in his native town. Mr. Francis also is well known as an athlete, still holding the intercollegiate championship for single sculls, the record of two miles in 13:42¾ having been made at Saratoga in 1879.



CHARLES S. FRANCIS

Praises American Hospitality.

Baron Von Echt, an Austrian who has been traveling in this country, is in raptures over his treatment here. "I do not believe," he says, "that such hospitable treatment would be accorded a stranger in any other country in the world. I have sojourned in many lands, but in no other have I been received with such marked courtesy and open-hearted hospitality. My tour of the United States convinces me that the American people in many respects are superior to the inhabitants of all other lands."

Case for Legal Minds.

In Sioux county, Nebraska, a man holds the office of school director and likewise a trusteeship of the district school in a South Dakota county just across the state line. He claims to be entitled to both offices, and cannot be dispossessed of either. His house is built on the state line, and when he goes to bed his head is in one state and his feet in the other, so that he is legally a resident of both. He votes at the school elections held in both districts and claims that he is entitled to do so, and thus far no law has been found that can reach his case.

Rose from Messenger Boy.

Alfred H. Smith, the new general manager of the New York Central railway, began his career as a messenger boy in the Cleveland office of the Lake Shore, at a salary of $4 a week. He has since then been successively "gang" laborer, brakeman, conductor, telegraph operator, train dispatcher, division superintendent and general superintendent. He is 39 years old and is the youngest of five children.

IN THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER

Long List of Distinguished Churchmen Who Have Worn the Triple Tiara—Reign of Pope Pius IX the Longest in History.

Pope Leo XIII., the 263d successor of St. Peter, Joachim Pecci, was born at Carpineto in the diocese of Anagni on March 2, 1810; ordained priest on Dec. 31, 1837; consecrated Titular Archbishop of Damietta on Feb. 17, 1843; transferred to the see of Perugia on Jan. 19, 1846; proclaimed Cardinal on Dec. 19, 1853; elected Pope on Feb. 20, and crowned on March 3, 1878.

The history of the popes shows that of the long line 195 have been Italians; Syrians, 7; Greeks, 15; Africans, 3; Spaniards, 4; French, 14; Burgundians, 2; Germans, 6; Saxons, 2; Bavarians, 4; English, 1, and Belgian, 1. The nationality of the others is not well established.

The religious orders supplied about seventy popes to the throne. The Benedictines have given thirty; the Carthusians two; the Carmelites two; the Dominicans four, and the Augustinians and Franciscans many. Numerous popes were members of royal and noble families, but many poor men have reached the tiara also. St. Peter was a fisherman. Adrian IV., the only Englishman who held the throne, was the son of a woman who begged alms at the door of her parish church. Urban IV. was the son of a poor Frenchman. The parents of Celestine V. were in very humble circumstances. So were those of Benedict II., an Italian Dominican, and also those of Nicholas V. The father of Adrian VI. was a ship carpenter, of Sixtus V. a farm laborer and of Pius V. a shepherd.

Gregory XI., 1276, died within a few hours of his election; Stephanus II. was pope for only three days; Urban VII. for twelve; Boniface VI. for fifteen; Celestine IV. for seventeen; Sisinius, Theodorus II., Damasus II., Pius III. and Marcellus II. for twenty; Valentinus for thirty and Leo XI. for twenty-five.

Pope Hormisdas, who was elected in 524, was a widower when he entered holy orders. He had a son called Silverius who succeeded him as Pope in 537. Silverius was martyred and both father and son are venerated as saints. Victor III. had also been married before ascending the throne; and so had Clement IV. He had two daughters and when his wife died he became a Carthusian monk. There are two instances in which brothers succeeded each other. The first is that of Stephen III., elected in 752. He reigned five years and was succeeded by his brother Paul I. The latter was canonized. The other case is that of Benedict VIII., elected in 1012 and succeeded twelve years after by his brother John XX., who was pope for nearly ten years.

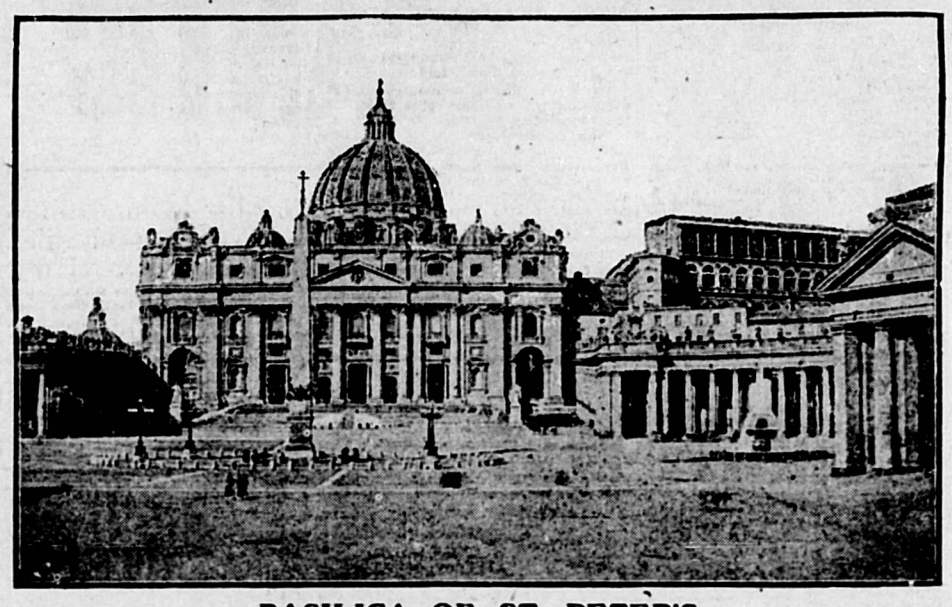
Benedict III., 855, was the first pope to assume the title "Vicar of St. Peter." In the thirteenth century, however, this was changed to the present style, "Vicar of Christ." The usage of kissing the cross on the pope's slipper, which still obtains, was introduced in 772 by Adrian I. The first pope to change his name on election was Sergius II., 844. John has been the name most frequently adopted. There have been 23 Johns, 13 Innocents, 14 Benedicts, 16 Gregories, 14 Clements, 13 Leos, 9 Piuses and 8 Alexanders. Pope Cletus, the third pope, adopted the salutation since used: "Salutem et Apostolicam Benedictionem"—health and apostolic benediction.

Clement V., 1305, was the first pope to remove his residence from Rome to Avignon. The exile lasted seventy years and for seven popes. The longest interregnum between the death of one pope and the coronation of his successor was three years, after the death of Clement IV., in 1270.

Pope Telesphorus, 142, ordained that Lent should begin on Septuagesima Sunday and Pope Gregory I., the Great, 590, introduced the ceremony of putting ashes on the head on Ash Wednesday. Linus, St. Peter's successor, prohibited women from entering a church with uncovered heads. Pope Vitalianus, about 659, introduced organs in churches. He is said to have been a talented musician. Pope Clement, 93, is believed to be the author of the canon of the mass.

Zephyrinus, 205, ordained that chalices should be made only of gold or silver, and Eusebius, 309, prohibited the use of any fabric but white linen for corporals—the covering of the chalice during mass. Marcellus, 304, introduced the rites of burial with lights and the chanting of psalms. John XXII., 1316, established the usage of ringing the "Angelus" bell. Melchiades prohibited fasting on Sunday. Anicetus introduced the clerical tonsure and Pelagius II., the sixty-fifth pope, established the law that all clerics shall recite the seven canonical hours, or "breviary," daily. Gregory IX. prescribed the little bell that rings at the time of the elevation of the host at the mass. Vigilius ordered that the words of the consecration of the mass should be said silently.

Gregory XI., who died in 1378, was the last French pope. Clement VII. excommunicated Henry VIII. of England for usurping the title, "Head of the Church." Alexander VI., the famous Borgia, whose reputation present day historians are rehabilitating, was pope when Columbus discovered America. Alexander III. abolished tilts and tournaments in Europe. Paul IV., 1555-59, instituted the "Index of Prohibited Books" and the tribunal of the Inquisition. His successor, Pius IV., established the "Montes Pietatis," or official pawnshops. Boniface V. granted the right of sanctuary to all persons flying for safety to a church.



BASILICA OF ST. PETER'S.

THE GARDENS OF THE VATICAN.

POPE'S POLICY ONE OF PEACE

Leo XIII. Had Marvelous Success in Creating Good Feeling.

Innominati in a letter from Rome to the New York Sun, written shortly before the death of Pope Leo, said:

"If there were congratulations for the unexpected longevity of Leo XIII., it was not merely because of the sympathy which his personality inspired in all, a sympathy remarkable from every point of view, nor was it on account of the interest in which we could not help having for an old man who was approaching his hundredth year. It was also, and above all, because of the impression, as confirmed by the events of a quarter of a century, that Leo XIII. was especially designed, thanks to his political and diplomatic gifts, to maintain tolerable relations between the church and the modern world, in spite of the opposition which broke out at every moment, and, if it had not been wisely kept in order would have brought about the most violent conflicts.

"The temperament of a peacemaker was especially necessary for the successor of Pius IX., whose character, hotheaded, and impetuous rather than staid and diplomatic, had perhaps emphasized the conflicts that everywhere existed between the church and the lay world. These conflicts were not only political and social; some were of an intellectual and moral nature, inasmuch as the modern spirit and that of the church asserted that they were divided by natural antagonism.

"Leo XIII.'s diplomacy consisted in substituting the method of patience and letting time work, for that of force and violence; in other words, the gradual establishment of peace wherever war was raging.

"If details are passed over, a general view of the world compared to what it was in 1878 will show that Pope Leo obtained more by means of his diplomacy than his predecessor did with his rather fiery ardor.

"The church of Rome under Leo XIII.'s pontificate succeeded in greatly improving the conditions of Catholics in non-Catholic communities, especially in Russia, in Great Britain, in the United States, and in other lands, too. But the chief result obtained in Catholic countries as well as the others has been that, without imposing on them any union, with any sort of politic system, Catholics have been led to withdraw from connection with forms of government whose fall might be deemed equivalent to the fall of the church itself.

"If in any field it seemed impossible for the most skillful diplomat to bring about agreement, it was in that of the relations between the Quirinal and Vatican. The time is not so far off when the Pope likened the King of Italy to Attica, and it seemed that no truce was possible between the two rival powers enthroned in Rome. Nevertheless, if Leo XIII. took no steps which might be looked upon as a formal renunciation of its claims by the holy see, his prudence created a condition of things that is almost equivalent to a modus vivendi, so uncommon have the occasions for conflict become between the Vatican and the Quirinal. As the latter, on its side, takes just as much pains to remove everything that might revive former hostilities, the holy see managed in the new condition of affairs to create for itself a position of which the festivities of the jubilee year have shown the importance."